



WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Blvd.
Tuesday - February 22, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Acting Chairman Robbins on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 6:03 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was administered to new Traffic Commissioners Diana Carey and Linh Nguyen were sworn in.

The selection of a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson was deferred to the next meeting in order to have the full Commission present.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Acting Chairman Robbins led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Diana Carey, Andrew Nguyen, Linh Nguyen and Ken Robbins.

Commissioners Absent: Gilbert Cruz.

Staff Present: Adolfo Ozaeta, Associate Civil Engineer; Corporal Mark Lauderback, Police Department; Sergeant Tom Finley, Police Department and Veronica Johnson, Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting of January 25, 2011 were approved (4-0).

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 77-137, Request for Parking Restrictions at 14281-14301 Magnolia Street on the west side of Magnolia Street.

T.C. 77-137 Magnolia Street

Mr. Ozaeta explained that staff had received a written request from the Cobblestone Owner's Association, 14281 Magnolia Street, concerning sight visibility. They believe they cannot safely perform any turn maneuvers from their driveway onto Magnolia Street while vehicles are traveling 45 mph.

Staff's study included a five second corner sight distance analysis and found that there was not enough sight

visibility. It is difficult to observe oncoming southbound traffic to the north due to regular curbside parking on Magnolia Street.

Commissioner A. Nguyen questioned the number of parking spaces needed to be eliminated and Mr. Ozaeta explained four spaces would be eliminated.

Commissioner Carey was in favor of parking restrictions. Commissioner Nguyen had no objections.

Lueva Beck, 15831 Quartz Street, spoke in favor of timed parking and overnight restrictions.

Mr. Ozaeta explained to the Commission that a recommendation from OCTA would likely be forthcoming that would request peak hour parking restrictions along this corridor for the upcoming traffic light synchronization project.

STAFF'S

RECOMMENDATION Staff's recommendation was for the installation of parking restrictions on the west side of Magnolia Street for a distance of 86 feet to the north of the driveway at 14281 Magnolia Street.

MOTION

Commissioner A. Nguyen moved to approve staff's recommendation to install parking restrictions at 14281 Magnolia Street, seconded by Acting Chairman Robbins.

VOTE

The motion was carried by a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Cruz being absent.

T.C. 10-105

Westminster Blvd.

The second item for discussion was T.C. 10-105, Request for Installation of a Crosswalk at 7671 Westminster Boulevard between Arizona Street and Webber Place.

Mr. Ozaeta invited Corporal Lauderback to differentiate between jaywalking and pedestrian right of way.

Corporal Lauderback explained that jaywalking is crossing the street between two controlled intersections with no intersecting streets in between. Pedestrians crossing the street at this particular location would not be considered jaywalking because Arizona Street and Webber Place intersect Westminster Boulevard. According to the California Vehicle Code, a T-intersection or a typical intersection always has an imaginary crosswalk that

extends from one sidewalk to the other and per definition, a crosswalk, painted or not, should be treated as such by motorists and pedestrians. Pedestrians should continue to use this crosswalk for safety rather than randomly crossing the street anywhere and becoming a hazard in the roadway.

Mr. Ozaeta explained staff had previously received this request from Mr. Shu Yau and it has been denied before the Traffic Commission by a 5-0 vote. Staff is bringing this to the new Traffic Commission for one more final overview. In comparison to the Federal Highway Administration study, staff conducted a city-wide study of marked and unmarked crosswalks and eliminated many marked crosswalks in order to increase pedestrian safety. This study revealed that more injuries occur in marked crosswalks, and the act of marking a crosswalk does not result in increased pedestrian safety. Pedestrians feel like they have the right of way and a sense of empowerment in a marked crosswalk.

Corporal Lauderdale clarified that pedestrians in a crosswalk do not always have the right of way and still have to yield to oncoming traffic. It is their duty to protect themselves and wait for a safe time to cross the street.

Mr. Ozaeta added that there is not a constant flow of pedestrians at this location or to a particular business, even if there was; it would not justify the installation of a crosswalk. Crosswalks are installed for safety issues and in this particular situation, this would not be safe.

RECOMMENDATION Staff's Recommendation was for the Commission to deny the request for installation of a crosswalk at 7671 Westminster Boulevard between Arizona Street and Webber Place.

Acting Chairman Robbins stated that the installation of a crosswalk would require a portion of the median to be removed to meet ADA requirements. Mr. Ozaeta explained the nose of the median, curb and gutter would need to be modified.

Commissioner L. Nguyen stated that he inspected the area and believes a marked crosswalk would be very dangerous.

Commissioner Carey found this to be an unusual location for vehicles to have to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk and would probably result in rear end collisions.

MOTION

Commissioner A. Nguyen moved to approve staff's recommendation to deny the Request for the Installation of a Crosswalk at 7671 Westminster Boulevard between Arizona Street and Webber Place, seconded by Commissioner Carey.

VOTE

The motion was carried by a 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Cruz being absent.

**T.C. 11-101
Newland Street**

The third item for discussion was T.C. 11-101, Request for Parking Restrictions on Newland Street at 23rd Street.

Mr. Ozaeta explained staff received a request from Michael Schenkelberg to investigate sight visibility for turn maneuvers from north and south of 23rd Street onto Newland Street.

Mr. Ozaeta directed attention to Exhibit A for clarity and elaborated on the 5-second corner sight distance analysis.

**STAFF'S
RECOMMENDATION**

Staff's Recommendation was for the Commission to approve the installation of parking restrictions on the west side of Newland Street for a distance of 140 feet to the north of 23rd Street and 156 feet to the south of 23rd Street.

Commissioner Carey's observations found that it was fairly easy to make a right turn maneuver but almost impossible to make a left turn maneuver at subject location.

Acting Chairman Robbins was in favor of staff's recommendation and suggested a 34 foot reduction in front 13593 Newland for guest parking.

Chairman A. Nguyen questioned if there are parked cars regularly along the street due to the townhomes in the area and Mr. Ozaeta explained that the residents may clarify his query during public comments.

Michael Schenkelberg, 8481 Amidon Place, spoke in favor of parking restrictions because there is absolutely no visibility for turn maneuvers and you have to pull your vehicle out too far onto Newland Street.

Chairman A. Nguyen questioned if cars are always parked there and Mr. Schenkelberg stated that one of the residents expanded their driveway to park 6 of their cars and many other residents have 2 or 3 vehicles per resident.

Linda Schroeder, 8471 Amiden Place, spoke in favor of parking restrictions because it is difficult for her to see and fears for her life to pull out at any time of the day.

Connie Somanza, 13872 Wilson Street, spoke in favor of the parking restrictions because you cannot see to make a left hand turn.

MOTION

Commissioner A. Nguyen moved to approve staff's recommendation to install parking restrictions on the west side of Newland Street for a distance of 140 feet to the north of 23rd Street and 156 feet to the south of 23rd Street, seconded by Commissioner L. Nguyen.

VOTE

The motion was carried by a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Cruz being absent.

T.C. 11-102 Quartz & Onyx

The fourth item for discussion was T.C. 11-102, Request to Install All-way Stop Signs at the T-Intersection of Quartz Street and Onyx Avenue.

Mr. Ozaeta explained staff received a request from Ms. Bernadette Fee, 15921 Quartz Street, to install an all-way stop at the subject intersection. She is concerned with the high speeds along Quartz Street and would like to improve pedestrian safety at the crossing.

Mr. Ozaeta stated Traffic Engineers abide by the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidelines prior to installing multi-way stop signs. Signage is uniform across the country so that drivers entering other communities will not be surprised with different signage. Staff's study included traffic collisions for the past 12 months, traffic volume on major and side streets, and the speed of vehicles to discover if there is a crash problem. Five accidents must be reported within a 12 month period to meet minimum criteria and none were reported within a five year period. The study included vehicles entering an intersection, the combination of vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles entering an intersection within an eight hour period and found that the minimum criteria was not met. A speed survey was conducted and the 85th percentile criterion was also not met, the average speed was 31 mph.

STAFF'S

RECOMMENDATION Staff's recommendation was for the Commission to deny the recommendation to Install All-Way Stop Signs at the T-Intersections of Quartz Street and Onyx Avenue and to increase traffic enforcement.

Corporal Lauderback explained that four motor officers saturated the area when they became aware of the situation. Several citations were issued and found that the majority of the violators were residents. Residents become comfortable in their community and in order to assist in the reduction of speed; enforcement, education and follow-up steps are taken. They are currently in the follow-up stage and as a result speeding violations have significantly dropped.

Commissioner Carey questioned if vehicles drive faster in between installed stop signs and Mr. Ozaeta explained they do if they are unwarranted.

Commissioner Carey had followed a few cars at subject location and found the fastest vehicles to be traveling at 35 and secondly 30 mph. The traffic was very light in the middle of the afternoon.

Bernadette Fee, 15921 Quartz Street, spoke in favor of the all-way stop because she noticed the speeding problem shortly after she purchased her home in May. She has three children and fears for one due to being a sleepwalker. Thereafter, Sergeant Nye brought a speed trailer to survey vehicles and the highest speed recorded was 45 mph with none traveling below the 25 mph limit. She fears not only for the safety of her children but for the neighborhood children. She believes a stop sign will reduce the speeding and was also involved in an accident on this street.

Amelia Fee, daughter of Bernadette Fee, spoke in favor of traffic signal installations because she has to hold her moms hand in order to cross the street and wear bright colors for cars to see her.

Tracy Valdez, 15912 Quartz Street, spoke in favor of the all-way stop as she noticed the speeding problem shortly after moving in nine years ago. She has spoke with neighbors and the City to alleviate the problem and nothing has been done. She and neighbors have lost pets in the street and do not want a child's life to be lost. Indian Village had just lost a child due to the same circumstances.

She believes a stop sign will force people to slow down and stop.

Patti Snodgrass, 15932 Quartz Street, spoke in favor the all-way stop and is here to support the children in her neighborhood and the adult walkers. She has been a resident for 10 years and has seen people jump back on a curb because vehicles are travelling too fast. Parents place neon signage in the street when the children are playing outside and vehicles do not slow down. She hears parents yelling for the children to not cross the street and still hears vehicles traveling at high speeds during the middle of the night.

Dean, 8961 Opal Street, spoke in favor of the all-way stop because this neighborhood has always had a speeding problem. He has been a resident for 14 years and is in favor of any solution because the problem is continuous, whether it is a stop sign or speed bumps, anything to help slow the speed down.

LuEva Beck, 15831 Quartz Street, spoke in opposition of traffic signal installation because she has raised her children here and they have gone to school in the area. She doesn't believe a stop sign is needed nor more police officers. She believes some people do speed but there is not a lot of traffic. The residents should remind the other residents to slow down. The installation of the traffic signal would be placed in front of her home and three feet from her driveway. She does not want to stop at the stop sign in order to enter her driveway. She is opposed to the installation because she does not want to get ticketed for not stopping at the sign.

Al Krippner, 15872 Plumwood Street, spoke in favor of the all-way stop because his house has been hit twice due to vehicles coming around the corner so fast. He believes a stop sign and speed bumps should be mandatory.

Commissioner Carey asked staff to elaborate on speed bumps because Quartz Street is a long stretch.

Mr. Ozaeta explained they contract with Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) for fire services and must follow their recommendations on speed bumps. They are trying to control the number of speed bumps implemented in the City and are looking at a design that do not impact their emergency response time. At this time, they do not have an approved design which is putting their speed bump

policy on hold. An alternative may be to install Opticom's, an emergency preemption of traffic signals that allow for a green light.

Commissioner Carey questioned if Bots Dots are placed horizontally anywhere in the City and Mr. Ozaeta explained they are Rumble Strips, raised pavement markings, and are not placed in the City due to noise issues.

MOTION

Commissioner A. Nguyen moved to approve staff's recommendation to deny the request to install all-way stop signs at the T-Intersections of Quartz Street and Onyx Avenue, seconded by Commissioner Carey.

VOTE

The motion was carried by a 3-1 vote with Commissioner Carey denying and Commissioner Cruz being absent.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no "New Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**INFORMATION
& REPORTS**

There were no "Information and Reports" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ORAL
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Oral Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**WRITTEN
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS
COMMISSIONERS
MAY WISH TO
DISCUSS**

The Commissioners present agreed to vote on a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Voting took place and Andrew Nguyen was selected as Chairperson and Ken Robbins was selected as Vice Chairperson.

**ITEMS STAFF MAY
WISH TO DISCUSS**

Commissioner Carey requested business cards from staff.

Mr. Ozaeta provided updates on the traffic signal projects throughout the City.


Commissioner Carey stated it is very noticeable that the timing of the signals do improve the flow of rush hour traffic and that the Traffic Management Center monitors and assists with the traffic in the community.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marwan Youssef
Public Works Director/City Engineer



By: Veronica Johnson
Secretary